**Review of the cycle of United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

- Elements provided by Secretariat for consideration by Member States

**Preambular Section**

**PP1** Reaffirming the mandate contained General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 19971, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000, paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 67/288 and the Ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

**PP2** Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/185 on the Biennial cycle of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

**PP3** Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/213 on the Report of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

**PP4** Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/251 on the Change of the designation of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

**PP5** Recalling decisions 27/1 on the New Rules of Procedure of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme and 27/2 on the Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

**PP6** Mindful that one of the main functions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme is to review and approve the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium Term Strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme.

**PP7** Also mindful of the functions and roles of the main committees of the General Assembly and its subsidiary organ the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organ the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

**PP8** Also bearing in mind that the next meeting of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly will be held at the level of heads of State and Government in 2019.

**Operative section**

**OP1 *Decides*** to review the biennial cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme to hold its regular sessions in odd years starting in [**2017/2019**] and also decides that the reviewed cycle will also apply to the open ended meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in accordance with decision 27/2;

**Option 1 (Scenarios 1, 2, 3, 4)**

**OP2** ***Also decides*** the following transitional arrangements to implement the new cycle in the most efficient and effective manner:

1. To convene the third session of the the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme from [XX to XX of October] 2017;
2. That on an exceptional basis the third session of the the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme will consist on a [3/4/5] day meeting without prejudice to the duration and functions of its high-level segment as set out in decision 27/2;
3. That the third open ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held on [2017/2019];
4. That on an exceptional basis the fourth meeting of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will take place in 2018 and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives will review no later than in 2018 the agenda and organizational modalities of the Subcommittee.
5. That the third open ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held in 2017 will, on an exceptional basis, consist of a [2/3/4/5] days meeting and will be convened back-to-back with the third session of the the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in order to minimize financial costs;
6. To request the Executive Director to at its third session present, where applicable, updates on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at its second session and to defer to the fourth session of the Assembly the formal consideration of the reports by the Executive Director;
7. To invite the General Assembly to consider the report of the third session of the the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2017 [at its 72th session];

**Option 2 (Third Session of UNEA in 2019)**

**OP2** ***Also decides*** the following transitional arrangements to implement the new cycle in the most efficient and effective manner:

1. To convene the third session of the the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme from [XX to XX of XXX] 2019;
2. That the third open ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held on [2017/2019];
3. To invite the General Assembly to consider the report of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2019 [at its 7x/7xth session];

**Option 3 (Swiss proposal)**

**OP2** ***Also decides*** the following transitional arrangements to implement the new cycle in the most efficient and effective manner:

1. To convene the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme from XX to XX of February/March/April 2018;
2. That the third open ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held, on an exceptional basis, on [xxxx 2017/2018];
3. To request the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session allocates sufficient time to consider the sixth Global Environmental Outlook;
4. To convene under the revised cycle, the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2019 and to consider the modalities and duration for this session at its third session;
5. To invite the General Assembly to consider the report of the third session of the the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2018 [at its 7Xth session]

**Important Note only for Option 3**: In accordance with Rules of Procedure 71, 72 and 73 on the amendments and suspension of the rules procedure, the Assembly should suspend at the opening of Second Session its Rule of Procedure 18.1 to enable the current Bureau to remain in office until the last meeting of the Second Session (Friday May, 27th) when a new Bureau presided by the Latin America and Caribbean Group shall be elected. It is important to note that if adopted the amended rule of procedure shall enter into force only at the third Session when the next Bureau presided by the Eastern European Group will be elected at the last meeting of the session.

**OP3 *Invites*** member states and organisations in a position to do so to provide generous financial support to enable the United Nations Environment to organize in the most effective and efficient manner the meetings of its governing body including during the transitional period;

**OP4 *Recognizes*** that the transition from an even to odd-year cycle will entail a one-time additional cost and also ***requests*** the Executive Director to [partially absorb such costs from the 2016-2017 biennium budget] / [include such costs in the 2018-2019 biennium budget] while also undertaking, where applicable, resource mobilisation efforts and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on funding gaps;

**OP5**  ***Decides*** to consider a resolution at its third session defining the organizational modalities of the regular sessions of the Assembly in order to enhance the budgeting process of the Programme and to better asses the support allocated by the Organization to service the meetings of the Assembly.

**OP6 *Underscores*** the need to improve the preparations for the sessions of the Assembly, ***takes note*** of the report of the working group established by the Committee of the Whole, and ***decides*** in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, that the elections of the United Nations Assembly Bureau shall be held at the last meeting of each regular session and the Bureau members will remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular session, thus amending its Rule of Procedure 18.1 as follows: “At the last meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Environment Assembly shall elect a President, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Bureau shall assist the President in the general conduct of business of the the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Chairpersons of such sessional committees as may be established under rule 61 below shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Bureau”.

**Important note to OP6** Rule of Procedure 72 requires that a committee or working party of the Assembly considers and reports to the Assembly on amendments to the Rules of Procedure. To this effect a working group can be established to consider the proposed amendment introduced in paragraph 6.